Officials in United States intelligence operations have expressed the fear that some of their most effective weapons have been blunted by disclosures of the secret financial support provided by the Central Intelligence Agency to other groups. These officials, in this country and abroad, argue in defense of the controversial C.I.A. programs, saying the funds involved amounted to "only a fraction" of investments by Communist nations in covert attempts to penetrate Western and neutralist governments.

An intricate web of undercover political activities and propaganda by American intelligence has been exposed to public view since disclosure last month of the agency's financial support for the National Student Association.

These officials, called "a struggle through subversion and influence-seeking continues unabated — particularly in Africa, Asia and Latin America — although East-West tensions have diminished and the original cold war battleground — Europe — has stabilized. Whether the tactics involve

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Vice President Humphrey said the student-financing programs represented "one of the saddest times, in reference to public policy, our Government has had." Some observers have pointed out that much of the support for international activities could have been given overtly, by Government agencies other than the C.I.A. Suspicions of espionage motivations, these people believe, could thus have been avoided.

"If a little money was put into a free labor union or other institution in a precarious country to keep it alive under adverse circumstances, it was worth it." The big purpose is, and was pre-emptive — to prevent the Russians from taking over. In this way we have succeeded in many cases in avoiding confrontations that might have been far more costly and difficult if the Communist-blue efforts had prevailed." All the intelligence officers interviewed said they strongly believed that clandestine financial support for certain private organizations should continue, except in fields where the support has been exposed. This view has run into strong opposition in the United States Government. Vice President Humphrey said the student-financing programs represented "one of the saddest times, in reference to public policy, our Government has had." Some observers have pointed out that much of the support for international activities could have been given overtly, by Government agencies other than the C.I.A. Suspicions of espionage motivations, these people believe, could thus have been avoided.

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have confirmed that the basic motivation of covert Communist activity in the West is not to steal documents but to disseminate propaganda and carry on "relentlessly political" activity.

"You Americans simply do not understand that," said Waddy, said Waddy, former chief of the Polish military mission in West Berlin, Mr. Tereskto- ski, 43 years old, was interviewed in West Berlin, where he now lives after defecting in May, 1965. He was said to be "suspicious" that covert subsidy programs were "so stupidly managed."

"In the East we have no such problems," he said. "The answer is, 'Give me money and the money is there.' Moscow says, 'Pay for this, and it is paid.'"

He discussed the strategy of Communist intelligence services in the West.

"It is not the recruiting of spies—that is quite easy," he said. "The whole thing is political—everything should show that world opinion is supporting Communism."

"You are always looking here at home for Communists. But there are Communists of the intelligence apparatus—they don't want Communists. They work for the British Foreign Office."

According to Mr. Szabo, the Hungarian intelligence system sought every opportunity to plant agents in British universities. In 1964, he said, the British Broadcasting Corporation offered two-week visits to British writers for the best essay on Shakespeare. A number of intelligence officers in the Government were ordered to write essays that would win the contest, he said. Apparently the agents were able to brush up their Shakespeare fast enough to win. If they went on, for the contest was won by two British authors. "We could not recruit and train them in time," Mr. Szabo said. Covert political activity extends beyond youth movements. CIA financing for labor unions, research organizations and other public institutions has been disclosed.

Here, the American intelligence officials also argued in terms of what the other side was doing. The Communists smuggled arms, bribed officials and recruited new personnel to be in position in several African countries, and in addition, agents in various countries believed to be in active touch with their Moscow colleagues believed them to be in active touch with their Moscow colleagues.

Graduates in Governments

Former students at Lumbana University, a new university to be found in Government positions in several African countries, and in addition, agents in various countries believed that Moscow was trying to export to the students from the West came from the United States and other countries, came under political pressure to work for the British Foreign Office.

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